

Events on base for Halloween

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

Columbus AFB offers many activities for people to join for Halloween, Oct. 31.

Some events include trick or treating, the Pumpkin Patrol, 14th Security Forces Squadron Haunted House, fall festival and enlisted club Halloween party.

❑ Trick or treating on base is from 6 to 8 p.m.

❑ The 14th Flying Training Wing needs 30 volunteers for the Pumpkin Patrol. They will work from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and can wear civilian clothes. The 14th Security Forces Squadron gives out traffic vests, flashlights and radios to the volunteers, so they can be identified.

“The purpose is purely to provide a safe environment for our BLAZE children to trick or treat and make the most of their holiday experience,” said Staff Sgt. David Lowe, 14th SFS and Pumpkin Patrol organizer.

For more information or to volunteer, call Ext. 7037.

❑ The Fourth Annual Security Forces Haunted House is from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 24, Oct. 25, and Oct. 29 to Oct. 31. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

“These activities bring a lot of pride to oneself and a unit because of the coming together of the community,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Baldwin, 14th SFS. “It builds teamwork, camaraderie, adds to morale and brings a squadron together like a family — the way it should be in each and every unit already.”

❑ The youth center offers a fall festival from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 31 followed by a dance for youth, ages 9 and older, from 9 to 11 p.m. Entry is \$3 per child. Adults accompanying children enter free of charge. Youth attending the fall festival gain free entry to the dance. There is a costume contest and a pre-carved pumpkin contest at 8 p.m. Glow items are on sale from Oct. 27 to Oct. 31 at the youth center.

Volunteers are needed to run game booths, pumpkin painting and clean-up. For more information or to volunteer, call Ext. 2504.

❑ A Halloween party sponsored by the 14th Services Division begins at 9 p.m. Oct. 31 at the enlisted club. There is a drink special from 9 to 11 p.m. Free finger food is available. A costume contest is at 10:30 p.m. There are four prizes for the top two male and female winners.

“Come and dress up and be someone different for one night out of the year,” said Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Andrews, 14th Operations Support Squadron and one of the event’s coordinators.

For more information, call Ext. 2019 or Ext. 7070.



Kenn Brown

Generals stop through
Gen. Don Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, gets strapped in with the help of Terry Kimbrel, DynCorp transient alert. General Cook and Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom, 19th Air Force commander, stopped through Columbus AFB for gas on their way to Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Center celebrates after-school program

Airman Boto Best
Public affairs

Columbus AFB children put on a ‘Lights On After School’ celebration Oct. 9 at the youth center.

The center’s after-school program is one of many across America designed to keep children occupied in a learning but fun environment during after-school hours — the time of day when they are most vulnerable to negative influences — said Terri Graves, school-age program coordinator.

To open the program, Ms. Graves

welcomed parents, teachers and children to the event. Erin Graves, 8, and Dominic Harrison, 6, led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Taylor Collie, 7, and Andrew Austin, 9, both shared why they enjoyed coming to the center after school. Both said the friends, field trips, snacks, arts and crafts were lots of fun.

Then, led by Cynthia Blanch, school-age program assistant, the children entertained the audience with a play, “Three Little Pigs.”

Several teachers from Cook Elementary School, Caledonia

Elementary School and Franklin Academy attended the event.

“It’s a positive place to be, where the curriculum is not all pencil and paper,” said Dixie Butler, Franklin Academy principal. “It also helps them build social skills.”

Parents agreed.

“It’s an ideal situation,” said 1st Lt. Sharon Gregory, whose daughter Naomi plays an active part in the after-school program. “You know that your children are cared for while you’re working.”

See LIGHT, Page 3

Thrift savings plan open season begins

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” now until Dec. 31.

“TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan, that everyone should consider,” said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center’s contact center at Randolph AFB, Texas. “Current account holders might be interested, too, in transferring money from one fund to another — the TSP folks are set up to handle that.

“Either way, it’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans,” Sergeant Ortiz said. “It’s important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks. People can choose safer government securities as well.”

Open season applies only to regular contributions. It does not include catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, AFPC’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

The program offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts,” Ms. Thomas said. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” Sergeant Ortiz said. “That makes it easy to pay yourself first while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” said Ms. Thomas.

Contribution elections or changes made between Oct. 15 and Dec. 13 will take effect Dec. 14, for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made after Dec. 14 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the pay period in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

Military

— Airmen can continue to contribute up to 8 percent of their base pay through November. Beginning Dec. 1, they may increase their contribution to 9 percent as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$12,000 for 2003. Airmen also can invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 in annual contributions.

— Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>. They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

— How an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. For general TSP questions, call the AFPC Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or (866) 229-7074.

— Specific TSP information is available for airmen at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm.

Civilian

Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

— Federal Employees’ Retirement System employees may contribute up to 14 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent

each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government’s contribution 5 percent.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay but do not receive any matching contributions or the automatic 1 percent.

— The percentage FERS and CSRS employees may contribute will increase by one point each year through 2004, when they will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code’s annual limit, \$12,000 in 2003 and \$13,000 in 2004, said Thomas.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.

— All Air Force civilian employees can make their TSP contribution elections or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 997-2378, or commercial 527-2378 in San Antonio. They can also use the Employee Benefits Information System Web application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm. Hearing-impaired employees can contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276. Overseas employees enter the AT&T direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then enter (800) 997-2378. AT&T access instructions can be obtained from http://www.att.com/business_traveler/guides_and_access/dialing_instr.html#outside. Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the central time zone.

— How an employee chooses to invest their money among the five funds are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.

More information about the Thrift Savings Plan can be found in the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan” on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service.)*

International student spotlight

From: Zomba, Malawi

What aircraft will you fly: Dornier 228-201 or HS-125 Hawker



Dornier 228-201

“What do you like about Columbus?: “The environment here is very conducive for study. Very few distractions. The people here are very friendly. I like to watch hockey and basketball here too.”

What do you miss about home?: “I miss soccer from my country. I am a very big fan and I miss watching the teams in my country play. And I really enjoy the British premier league. I miss my relatives and family and I try to talk to them a lot and e-mail them. I like the spirit of Americans. You are very generous and are able to share what you have.”



1st Lt. Victor Walawala

The Combined Federal Campaign runs until Oct. 31. For more information, call Ext. 2500 or Ext. 2530.

Overseas holiday mailing deadlines designated

Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

Holiday packages for servicemembers overseas should be mailed by Nov. 13. Otherwise, the package could very well be on the proverbial “slow boat to China,” said Mark DeDomenic, chief of postal operations for the Military Postal Service Agency. Military postal operations employees ship about 250,000 pounds of mail each day to Iraq. That number is expected to go up to about 325,000 pounds each day during the year-end holiday season, which is why Mr. DeDomenic suggests that people mail holiday packages early. “Mailing early is the best way to ensure that mail gets through the pipeline and to its destination on time,” he said. The Military Postal Service Agency has set the following deadlines for holiday mail:

- ❑ Parcel post, Nov. 13

- ❑ Space available, Nov. 28
- ❑ Parcel-airlift mail, Dec. 4
- ❑ Priority and first-class letters or cards, Dec. 11

Those dates should also be observed when sending mail from most overseas locations to the United States, Mr. DeDomenic said. Other tips for faster delivery include mailing smaller packages. “The smaller the package, the easier it is to handle, the quicker we can move it,” Mr. DeDomenic said. “Shoe box-sized packages are perfect.”

Senders should be specific about what is inside the package because packages going to an APO or FPO address will require a U.S. Customs label, , Mr. DeDomenic said. “People tend to like to put on the customs label ‘Gifts,’” he said. “This is very vague and that is the type of thing that will slow mail down. We must know exactly what is in those boxes to ensure that they are mailable items.”

Although some service members move

from place to place, Mr. DeDomenic said customers should mail packages to the recipient’s most recent known address. Although in most places mail will reach its destination in a timely manner, troops on the move often mean that mail will have to be forwarded. “The packages will catch up, but sometimes it may take a little longer,” he said.

It’s a good idea to place a copy of the address inside the package, just in case the address label or package gets damaged. “That way, the package can be rewrapped and sent to the correct address,” he said.

To ensure packages arrive safely, Mr. DeDomenic suggested using strong, sturdy boxes with lots of wrapping. He said boxes should be packed tightly, using packing materials such as popcorn or newspapers, to keep contents from moving. He also recommended that senders use good tape, because the humidity in the desert tends to destroy tape’s adhesive qualities.

“Masking tape is a definite ‘no’ when it

comes to mailing, and (light-duty transparent tape) is terrible,” he said. “Reinforced nylon tape works very well.”

It’s also important to remember what can’t be mailed, Mr. DeDomenic said.

Hazardous materials, firearms and flammable liquids are prohibited inside packages. This includes alcoholic beverages and even some perfumes that may have high alcohol content, he said.

Also he advises not installing batteries inside the electronic items that require them. “Things tend to get turned on (from jostling during shipping), and that causes security concerns,” he said.

Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as “Operation Dear Abby” or “Any Service Member” cannot be supported by the agency this year using traditional mail, DeDomenic said.

“We ask that the American public use electronic Web sites or send greeting cards via e-mail” as alternatives, he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Single parent, child social

The single parent and child Halloween social is at 5 p.m. Thursday at the family support center. Pizza, chips, drinks and craft stations are provided. Costumes are optional, but prizes are given for both adult and child categories. Sign up by today to participate. For more information, call Ext. 2790.

Prevention seminar

A Women’s Health Week lunch seminar with Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall, 14th Medical Operations Squadron commander, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Oct. 24 at the family support center. Snacks will be available and brown bag lunches are encouraged. To register, call Ext. 2235 by Wednesday.

OSC social

The Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club sponsors a sale of jewelry by James Quality Jewelers of Bangkok, Thailand, noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Columbus Club. The sale is open to all BLAZE team members and will benefit Air Force personnel through the COSC charitable account.

Adopt international pilots

Sponsors are needed for international student pilots. Students come here for pilot training from more than 20 countries. For more information, call Ext. 7621 or Ext. 7002.

LIGHT (Continued from Page 1)

“It’s one less thing to worry about,” Lieutenant Gregory said. “These caregivers take 100 percent full responsibility for these children.”

In addition to homework tutoring in science, math and other subjects, the center offers a variety of clubs and activities children can take part in such as drawing, photography and cooking. Life skills such as what to do when home alone, how to deal with strangers and other character-building activities are also offered.

The center’s staff is required to go through specific training in order to qualify as school-age education specialists. Within 18 months, staff members have enough training to equal an associate’s degree.

Ms. Graves described the center’s nationally accredited program as well rounded.

The center has a fitness room furnished with exercise bikes which parents and children can use together.

“After school programs enhance the regular school curriculum,” said Ms. Graves. “Lots of children don’t have the opportunity to participate in them perhaps for economic reasons. Their schools and communities can’t afford it, so they get into gangs, drugs, unwanted pregnancies and other kinds of trouble.

“Fortunately, at this base we have an excellent after-school



Airman Boto Best
Children from the youth center’s after-school program play in the “Three Little Pigs.”

program because we are nationally accredited, one of only two such programs in the state of Mississippi,” said Ms. Graves.

Parents can register their children during normal business hours at the youth center. Transportation is available from Caledonia Elementary School to the center, and snacks are provided.

The center also offers full daycare during school holidays for children 5 through 12, including three meals a day and field trips. Fees are based on total family income and are supplemented by the government. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Thanks for everything you do every day

Lt. Col. David Eastman
14th Operations Support Squadron



It’s been a busy summer and a very busy year, and I thought I’d take a few minutes to tell you thanks. We work with an amazing group of individuals that make up this team we call the “BLAZE,” and I don’t think we take enough time to tell one another thanks.

With operations tempo up, increased deployments, reduced manning and life busier than ever, somehow you still manage to accomplish the mission, and I thank you for what you do every day. Here in sleepy hollow Columbus “by the sea,” our mission is to train the next generation of Air Force pilots. In fiscal year 2003 we entered 468 student pilots into Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training and graduated 348 — not including the 71 we sent to Fort Rucker, Ala., or

Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Texas, for Phase III — which was nearly one-third of the pilots produced in the Air Force. If you’re hoping for some relief, don’t hold your breath because it doesn’t look like it is going to slow up any time soon. We expect to continue training more than 450 pilots per year for the next several years, which means our pace will remain intense as we work to find ways of doing business smarter and more effectively.

The increased tempo has added significant stress in most of our lives. We’ve seen the result of this stress manifested in several ways such as a rise in domestic abuse, an increase in alcohol-related incidents, fewer reenlistments, a decrease in customer service, and more. We’ve read several articles and heard discussions on these problems in the recent past, and it’s important to heed the warning signs, but I think it’s important to remind everyone of the incredible work you are doing and how important you are to our nation’s security.

Despite the high operations tempo, we have a lot to

be thankful for. I’m thankful we live in a nation that allows me to voice my opinion in an article like this; I’m thankful for the freedoms we sometimes take for granted; I’m thankful I can worship God without fear of persecution; I’m thankful for the opportunity to serve; I’m thankful for the lifestyle my job in the Air Force has provided; I’m thankful for my family, and I’m thankful to work with people like you.

Take a few minutes every day to sit back, slow down and remind yourself what you are truly thankful for — your health, friends, the roof over your head or the food on your table.

If you do, I think you’ll find it’s a little easier to cope with some of the stresses of the daily grind. And while you are at it, don’t forget to say thanks to those around you for their work and dedication.

Just a small word of genuine thanks, along with a warm and friendly smile can change a person’s entire day. It’s up to you.

Keep up the great work, keep smiling and THANKS for all you do.

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil.

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Bowling center customer service, receipt issues

Question: I was in the bowling alley and bought some food that totaled over \$5. The cashier did not hand me my receipt and I momentarily forgot about it. I usually put my name and number on it and put it in the drawing box for a chance at a free meal. I thought of it a minute later and I asked her for my receipt. The cashier told me that she had already put my receipt in the box with “someone else’s name on it.” She said that she “did not know I wanted it.” This employee was very presumptuous to assume that I did not want it and she did not waste her time putting it in the box either. Can

this be emphasized to the bowling alley personnel? They should always automatically hand the customers their receipts and then if the customer doesn’t want it, the cashier can do with it as he or she pleases.

Answer: We thank you for reporting this serious incident to us and allowing us to improve our service. We have investigated your concern and believe the employee who committed this unethical practice has since resigned. Our bowling manager disciplined this staff member for this exact offense, and she did not return to work. Please note all employees have been

trained on the requirement for every customer to receive a receipt and notified of the strict consequences for non-compliance. To ensure this type of incident does not occur in the future, we are implementing a new policy. “Any customer not offered a receipt receives their order free.” Please contact our office, at ext 2800, if you witness any unethical practice in our Services Activities. Once again, we appreciate your help in ensuring we provide quality, ethical service in our quest to improve the lives of those who serve.

*Col. Steve Schmidt
14th Flying Training Wing commander*

SILVER WINGS

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Chaplain	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk	434-2856
Civilian Personnel	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice	434-2172
Appointment Desk	434-2273
After Hours Care	434-2273
Columbus Club	434-2489
Commissary	434-7106
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Housing Maintenance	434-7370
Inspector General	434-2927
Legal Office	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity	434-2546
Security Forces	434-7129
Shoppette	434-6026

Fire Prevention Week ignites safety in children's minds



Gary Crosson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department, puts a firman's helmet on Aaron Meek, Immanuel Center for Christian Education, during a tour of the fire department.

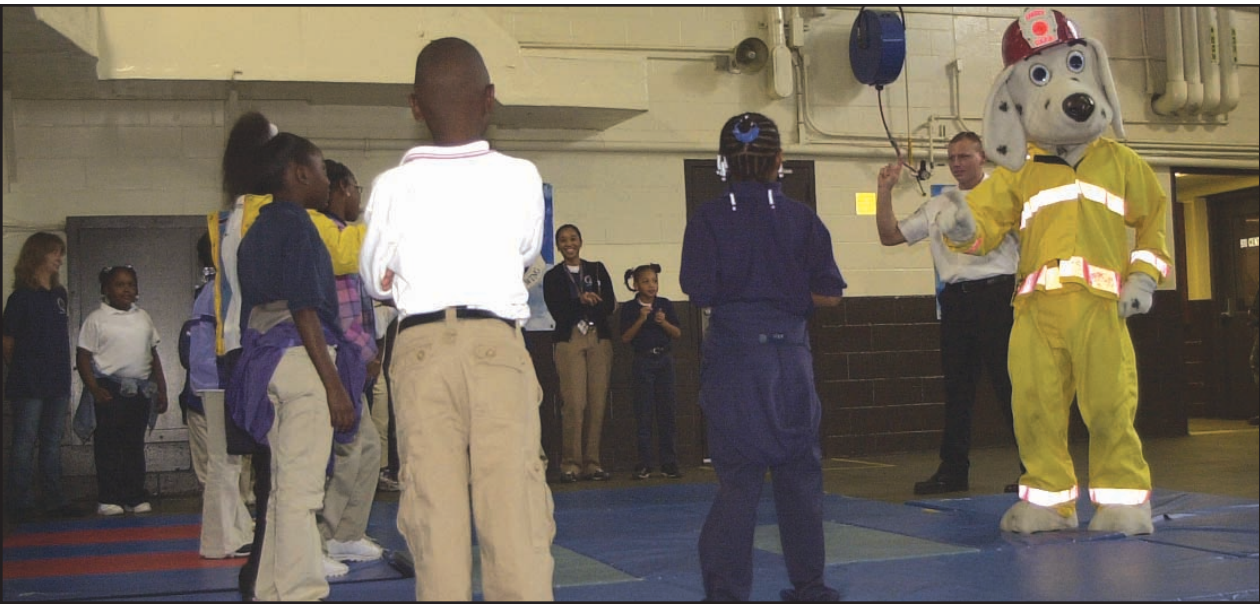
Photos by Airman Alexis Lloyd

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

Stop.
Drop.
Roll.
Most people have known these basic moves since kindergarten. It was one of the few things the Columbus AFB Fire Department taught during Fire Prevention Week to almost 1,000 children from 10 local schools.
“Children should be educated about fire safety from their parents at a very young age and continue through their school years,” said Harold Nichols, assistant fire prevention chief.
The children first met Sparky the Fire Dog. Though few shied away from the gentle dog, he was welcomed by children yelling “Sparky” at the top of their lungs.
“The kids are crazy about Sparky,” said Gina Cotton, Immanuel Center for Christian Education teacher.
There were four stations for groups of children to rotate

through. At the first, they learned to stop, drop and roll. They also learned how to climb through a window if they needed to escape during a fire. Because smoke rises during a fire, children practiced crawling on hands and knees through a box filled with harmless smoke. Firemen put on their equipment to give the children an idea of what firemen look like and an idea of what to expect.
Mr. Nichols gave some tips on what to do if a fire should occur and how to prepare beforehand:
❑ Get out of the house. Be familiar with at least two exits from each room; for example, one window and one door. Know where the exits are and practice using them.
❑ Have a meeting place located outside the house.
A fire is no time to worry about who made it out and who did not. By establishing a central meeting place outside the house, everyone can be accounted for and no one will have to wonder who might still be inside.
❑ Call the fire department from

a neighbor's house.
❑ Never go back inside for any reason.
Once outside, do not go back inside. The fire department will be there in a matter of minutes. Stay at the meeting place and wait for the fire department.
“Parents should practice their fire evacuation plan with their children monthly and should change the batteries in their smoke detectors at least once a year,” Mr. Nichols said. “We recommend the batteries be changed when you reset your clocks during daylight savings time. You should replace your smoke detectors every 10 years.”
The fire department also recommends having a carbon monoxide detector, especially if there's a gas stove in the house.
After running through all the stations, some children took pictures with Sparky and some went to Freedom Park for lunch.
As children left the fire station, they were given a goodie bag with a fire safety coloring book and a fireman's helmet.



Above: Mitchell Elementary School second and third graders practice the “stop, drop and roll” method at the fire department with Sparky the Fire Dog.



Dusty Freeman, First Assembly Child Care Center, shakes Sparky the Fire Dog's hand.



Trevor Beebe, Immanuel Center for Christian Education, crawls through a smoke-filled box.

AT THE CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — Mass
Wednesday
11:30 a.m. — Mass

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship
Tuesday
Noon — Lunch and Bible study
Wednesday
5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the theater.

Today

Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star (PG-13, rude/sex-related humor, language, drug reference, 99 min.)

Starring: David Spade and Mary McCormack.

Saturday

My Boss's Daughter (PG-13, crude and sex-related humor, drug content and language, 101 min.)

Starring: Ashton Kutcher and Tara Reid.

Oct. 24

Cold Creek Manor (R, violence, language and some sexuality, 115 min.)

Starring: Dennis Quaid and Sharon Stone.

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call Airman Boto Best for more information at Ext. 7069.

Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

Monday through Aug. 29

9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination

Program Tapes:

Social Science

FAMILY SUPPORT



Give Parents a Break: If a person is deployed, on an extended TDY, remote tour, the family is relocating or any other unique circumstances, the family could qualify for six hours of free child-care at the child development center from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Coping with difficult people: Learn how to communicate effectively on the job, identify difficult people, and turn bad situations to your advantage with Readus Linton, wellness and prevention specialist, 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

To register, call Ext. 2790 by Monday.

Daddy tool time: A program for new or fathers-to-be is from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. The program provides insight into the father's role in pregnancy, a working knowledge of what to expect after delivery and information on lifestyle changes that accompany a new baby.

To register, call Ext. 2790 Monday.

Loan seminar: A base credit union representative discusses how to establish credit and steps to take before and during the loan process at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the family support center. To register, call Ext. 2790 by Monday.

Practicing safe stress: Learn to identify safe stress strategies, stress reduction techniques and skills, and how to turn insight into action with Readus Linton, wellness and prevention specialist, at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at the family support center.

To register, call Ext. 2790 by Monday.

BASE NOTES



Military Month essay and art contest: Military Month launches in November. In honor of military families, the Armed Services YMCA and Lockheed Martin are accepting essay entries with the topic "Why I Like to



Courtesy photo

Deployed troop

Tech Sgt. Jim Moser, 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs, shoots a Thompson gun at a deployed location. There are currently more than 30 people deployed from Columbus AFB.

Read," and art entries depicting a student's military family at www.asymca.org. The Web site provides suggestions for topics, age categories and requirements.

The winner receives a U.S. Savings Bond. Entry forms and requirements are also available at the family support center.

Bible studies: Tuesday lunch study is based on "The Fruit of the Spirit Studies: Overcoming Anxiety and Conflict."

Wednesday dinner studies include "Elevate" for young adults with Chaplain Bryan Hochhalter, "The Victory" for everyone with Chaplain Lonnie Brooks, and "Wild and Wacky" for children with Joy Garrison.

For more information call Ext. 2500.

OSC social: The Columbus Officers' Spouses Club's monthly social is at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Columbus Club. The program is "Getting Ready for the Holidays."

The menu is New England buffet and is \$11. Club members get a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. People must register by noon Nov. 4.

For more information or reservations, call Lisa Davis at 434-8723 or email airtex60@yahoo.com.

SCOUTING CORNER



Boy Scouts: Troop 52 reorganized in August and welcomes new members ages 11 to 17. Upcoming events include: Plymouth Bluff service day, 7:15 a.m. Saturday at the Columbus AFB front gate. A camporee training day, 9 a.m. at the Columbus AFB Fire Department; Camporee, departs at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 31 from the Columbus AFB community center and returns around 1 p.m. Nov. 2. For more information call Ext. 2324 or Ext. 2503.

Cub Scouts: Regular meetings for boys ages 7 to 10 are at 6 p.m. Mondays at the Columbus AFB chapel. A Cub/Webelo family weekend is scheduled for Oct. 25 to 26 at Camp Seminole, Starkville, Miss. All attending will earn their camping badges.

For more information, call Ext. 3569.

Girl Scouts: Regular meetings for girls in kindergarten through grade 12 are at 5 p.m. Mondays at the youth center. A visit to the Columbus AFB fire department is scheduled for 5 p.m. Nov. 3.

For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Services offers fun, food, football to Colulumbus AFB

Catfish buffet: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers.

Customers may still order off the ala carte menu. Call Ext. 2490.

Silver Star casino trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip today. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation and \$15 in coins. Call Ext. 7861 for reservations.

All ranks bingo: Games begin at 6 p.m. Fridays in the community center ballroom. Play five \$75 regular games, one \$125 odd and even coverall game and a \$1,000 progressive jackpot game.

Consolation prize is \$150 if the jackpot does not go. Admission fees for nonmembers are \$5. Payout is based on a minimum number of players. Call Ext. 2489.

Open mike night: The enlisted lounge features an open mike tonight from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call Ext. 2489.

Football Frenzy: Enter to win in the club's Football Frenzy program. The enlisted lounge is open Mondays from 6 to 10 p.m.

The prizes include tickets to the Super Bowl and a Pro Bowl game. For details, stop by the club.

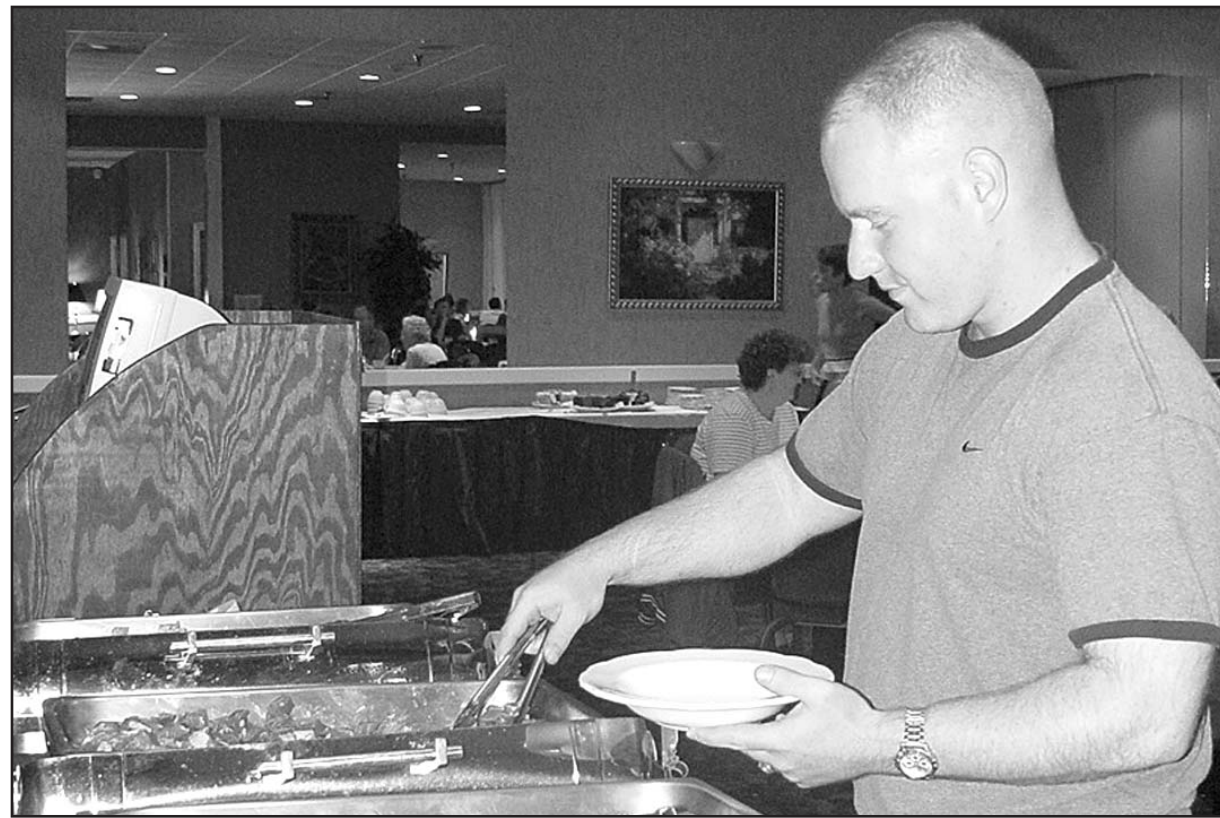
Preschool story time: The Library seeks volunteers to read for the preschool story time Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Program lasts approximately 30 minutes. Call Ext. 2934.

Oktoberfest: The Services Division offers family fun during Oktoberfest at the Columbus Club from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 25. A genuine "oompahpah" band, the Mitternaechters, will provide the entertainment.

A german buffet will also be available complete with bratwurst and knockwurst for \$7.95 for members and \$9.95 for nonmembers.

A children's menu will be available too. Call Ext. 2489.

Youth center fall festival: The youth center offers a fall festival from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 31 followed by a



Athena Brimer

Fill-er-up

First Lt. J.R. Smith, 41st Flying Training Squadron, selects his items for his made-to-order Mongolian barbecue order. Mongolian barbecue is offered from 5 to 8 p.m. tonight at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$7.95 for members and \$9.95 for nonmembers. Cost includes six ounces of meat and unlimited vegetables. Each additional ounce of meat is 95 cents. For more information, call Ext. 2489.

dance for youth, ages 9 and older, from 9 to 11 p.m. Entry is \$3 per youth/child.

Adults accompanying children are free. Youth attending the fall festival gain free entry to the dance. There will be a costume contest and a pre-carved pumpkin contest at 8 p.m. Glow items will be on sale from Oct. 27-31 at the youth center.

Volunteers are needed to run game booths, pumpkin painting and clean-up. Call Ext. 2504.

Quick shot bingo: The bowling center offers quick shot bingo anytime the bowling center is open. Cash prizes. Cards are \$1 each.

Birthday Parties: The Strike Zone Lanes offers three different birthday party packages ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$4.75 per person.

Stop by the bowling center to pick up a brochure on what is offered with each package. Call Ext. 2426.



Base Library Squadron Pumpkin Carving Contest

Its All In The Presentation!

Judging is at 2 p.m. Oct. 30 — Pick up pumpkins at library from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 28

Win five large pizzas for a pizza party at your squadron Oct. 31st. For more information, call Ext. 2934.

Book sale: Friends of the Library sponsor a book sale to benefit the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Leigh Mall in Columbus.

Othello performance: A few free tickets remain for military identification card holders to see Aquila Theater Company of London/New York perform Shakespeare’s Othello at 7 p.m. Monday at Mississippi University for Women’s Rent-Whitfield Auditorium.

The local show is an initiative by Shakespeare in American Communities and is subsidized by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Columbus Arts Council received a \$1,000 grant from Arts Midwest enabling them to provide free tickets to military identification cardholders.

The few remaining tickets, valued at \$20 each, may be picked up from 1st Lt. Richard Blakewood at Ext. 7065 in the Wing Headquarters building. Those taking the tickets are asked to be at the event. For more information, call the Columbus Arts Council at 328-2787.

MUW play: Mississippi University for Women stages On the Verge (or the Geography of Yearning), a play by Eric Overmyer at 7:30 p.m.Thursday, Oct. 24, and Oct. 25.

Tickets are \$5. For more information, call the Division of Fine and Performing Arts at 329-7341.

Red Cross courses: American Red Cross courses are

scheduled for 6 p.m. as follows: Adult CPR Monday, Infant/Child CPR Tuesday and First Aid Wednesday.

For more information call 328-5710.

Halloween theatre: The Columbus Community Theatre presents Stage Fright, a readers’ theatre Halloween production for the whole family, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 and Oct. 25 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center Omnova Theatre.

Auditions for the holiday production of The Christmas Stranger Partridge in a Pear Tree are scheduled for Nov. 14 to Nov. 16, Nov. 21 and Nov. 22.

For more information, call the Columbus Arts Council at 328-2787.

Tupelo circus: The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus performs at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25 and at 2 and 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Ballard Park Sportsplex in Tupelo, Miss.

Visitors are invited to the tent raising 7 to 10 a.m. opening day.

Tina the elephant gives a demonstration at 9:15 a.m. Other animal trainers, acrobats and daredevils practice throughout the morning and cameras are welcome.

Reserved seating is \$20 for VIP ringside, \$14 for adults and \$9 for children and seniors in advance; \$22, \$16 and \$11 on show day.

General admission (bleacher) seating is \$14 for adults and \$9 for children on show day.

Free children’s tickets are available at participating

area Burger Kings. Advance tickets are available at McRae’s, online at www.tickets.com, or by calling (888) 332-5600.

Hazard Lecture: The 12th Annual Hazard Lecture series, The Artist at Work - Inspiration and Perspiration, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Heritage Academy in Columbus.

Blues singer/songwriter Dan Penn, who has written for Aretha Franklin, Conway Twitty and Ronnie Millsap, is the featured lecturer and performer.

Admission to the hazard lectures are free.

For more information call Brenda Caradine at 328-5413.

Fall harvest party: Columbus Community Church offers carnival games, candy, cake walk, dunking booth, moon jump and food at a fall harvest party 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29.

From Highway 82, take the Highway 45 off ramp south to the first stop sign. The party is next to the gas station, at the old Prairie Pointe Power Sports building.

The party is free to everyone. For more information call 327-2010.

VFW parade: the Aliceville VFW Post 4767 sponsors a parade starting at 10 a.m. Nov. 8. The parade starts from City Hall back parking lot in Aliceville, Miss. For more information or to enter in the parade, call 373-3176.

Columbus fights in many United States historic wars

Russell D. James
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library

Learning Columbus history is much like learning history out of a textbook, but much more exciting. Not only can you read about the history, but also you can go see where it took place. Although harder for the imagination to place in context, the military history of Columbus is rich with possibilities for the mind.

Early Columbus was free from war. Some of the early settlers were Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans and Samuel Edmondson, the man who rode from lower Alabama to Nashville to tell General Andrew Jackson that the Creek Indians had attacked Fort Mims and other places, starting the Creek War, is buried south of Columbus in Brownlee Cemetery. Some of the men who drove the Cherokees to Oklahoma on the “Trail of Tears” came back to the area afterward and settled in Lowndes County. But Columbus’ first veterans were those of the Mexican War.

Since its early days, Columbus had had a militia company. In the 1840s there were at least two of them. But the federal government did not mobilize the militia in the Mexican War (1846-48) because of an old law saying they could not fight outside

the borders of the United States. So volunteer regiments were mustered by the state governors. Each regiment was made of 10 companies of 100 men each from the different localities. Lowndes and Monroe Counties put together the Tombigbee Guards and these fought alongside Colonel Jefferson Davis in Mexico, winning much glory at the Battles of Monterey and Matamoros. Later in the war, the Lowndes Guards were formed in Columbus, went to Mexico, but saw no fighting. Nonetheless, they are heroes to us.

The Civil War brought much strife to our nation. Columbus sent over 1000 men to fight for the southern cause. Many of these died and were buried on the battlefields; others were returned to Columbus for burial. The Battle of Shiloh is cut deep in our city’s collective memory. We lost many men there, including Colonel Andrew K. Blythe, a hero of the Mexican War fame, who died on this Tennessee battlefield. But we also had trains of wounded soldiers show up in Columbus. Our hotels, churches, and many of the homes were turned into hospitals where over 1300 men died. These and others make up the 1500 Confederate soldiers buried in Friendship Cemetery.

We had a company of men fight in the Spanish American War (1898-1902), the



Courtesy photo

Civil War soldiers take a rest between battles. Friendship Cemetery in downtown Columbus has about 1,500 Confederate soldiers buried on its grounds.

Queen City Guards, a local infantry militia company. They were commanded by a Civil War veteran and later mayor of Columbus-Cicero L. Lincoln. Lincoln fought with one of his sons, Atwell Lincoln. Atwell fought in World War I with his brother, Lonnie, and Atwell lost his life to a sniper bullet in France.

Many other men, black and white, saw service in Europe during this war. We lost many of our native sons, some of whom have been lost to history. Through the

efforts of some local history buffs, however, this deficiency may soon be rectified. We also had many veterans of World War II who went away to Europe and the Pacific and returned heroes.

Our sons (and daughters) saw fighting in Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Columbus, like so many other cities across the nation, is not without war heroes.

There are also some historic sites included in the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library folio of Columbus military history.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one):	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
Print advertisement:	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>				
Name:	<div></div>				
Home Telephone #:	Duty Telephone #:				
	(in case we need more information)				

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

New karate class offers kick to fitness

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

The fitness and sports center offers a new karate class at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for ages 15 and older.

“Students will learn practical self-defense, traditional body conditioning and meditation while increasing flexibility and improving cardiovascular health,” said John Trentini, class instructor.

Trentini teaches the art of Isshinryu Karate, which is a traditional Okinawan style. He is a third-degree black belt and has been training in Isshinryu for more than 12 years.

“Students should come to class in workout clothes along with a positive attitude,” Trentini said.

The class includes a variety of exercises including calisthenics, physical conditioning, stretching, as well as training how to block, strike and kick. People in the class train for real-life self-defense situations with an emphasis on close-in defense, grappling, wristlocks and a variety of chokes. Classes typically close with meditation or chi gong exercises.

“I’d never done karate before, but I was looking for a combat training class and this is the closest thing,” said Rhett Sigmon, 41st Flying Training Squadron.

“The class is an excellent workout, increasing cardiovascular health by the duration of exercise at an increased heart-rate, as well as improving strength and flexibility through anaerobic conditioning,” Trentini said. “People will leave with a greater sense of whole-body wellness.”

Trentini said people don’t have to be experienced in karate because everyone starts from the beginning. Classes are designed to meet each individual’s needs, regardless of experience.

“The most important thing is to come and give it a try,” he said.

For more information on the class, call Ext. 2772.



Airman Alexis Lloyd

Rhett Sigmon, 41st Flying Training Squadron, practices kicks with John Trentini, instructor, during the new karate class at the fitness and sports center. Classes are at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

No-tap bowling

No-tap bowling begins at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 at the bowling alley.

Sign up by 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Bowling expertise not required. Call Ext. 2426.

Youth bowling

Saturday youth bowling begins at 10 a.m. for ages 5 to 11 and 12:30 p.m. for ages 12 and older. Cost is \$6 per week. Call Ext. 2426.

Youth basketball

Youth basketball for ages 5 to 18 is Decemeber through March. Registrations began Wednesday and lasts until Dec. 2. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Volunteers are needed to coach. For more information, call Ext. 2503.

Fall soccer league

Military, civilian and adult family members are invited to play FIFA soccer behind the officers club Sunday afternoons.

Visit www.geocities.com/columbusfutbol.

Schedule change

The Health and Wellness Center has adjusted its lunch-hour fitness class schedule to reflect participation.

The aerobics class has been discontinued and circuit classes are now offered noon to 12:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A new walk/run class is planned for noon to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays with at least five participants.

All Columbus AFB team members are invited to both lunch-hour workouts.

To sign up for the run/walk class, e-mail

HAWC@columbus.af.mil or call Ext. 2477.

only. Call Ext. 2773.

Martial arts

Students five and older can take Tae Kwon Do between 6 and 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the youth center. Cost is \$40 per month. Call Ext. 2404.

Tennis instruction

The youth center offers tennis lessons for ages five and older. Cost is \$40 monthly for two 1-hour (ages 8 up) or 45-minute (ages 7 and under) lessons per week. Call Ext. 2504.

Fitness 101

Basic class teaches how to find target heart rate, use the fitness equipment and get results. Classes are by appointment

Circuit training

Advanced class focuses on the benefits on circuit training. Classes are by appointment only. Fitness 101 is a prerequisite. Call Ext. 2773.

Personal trainers

Certified personal trainers are available to help tailor routines for individual ability, more variety or a better workout. Call Ext. 2773.

Aerobics classes

The fitness center offers 15 different classes, from step to kickboxing and spinning to yoga, every week. Pick up a schedule at the front desk, or call Ext. 2772.